

Message Text

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43

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 121129Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3374

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 11037

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CB

SUBJECT: SOVIET RECOGNITION OF GRUNK

REF: PHNOM PENH 10961

1. THIS MORNING DCM CALLED ON SOVIET CHARGE D'AFFAIRES (YOURI CHMANEVSKI) AT FORMER'S REQUEST, TO SEEK COMMENTS ON AFP AND TASS REPORTS FROM PEKING OF A SOVIET NOTE TO SIHANOUK ACKNOWLEDGING GRUNK TO BE THE LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CAMBODIAN PEOPLE AND PLEDGING SOVIET SUPPORT AND AID TO GRUNK.

2. CHMANEVSKI SAID HE WAS AWARE OF SOME WIRE SERVICE REPORTS FROM PEKING, BUT CLAIMED HE HAD NOT YET SEEN THE TEXTS (NOT EVEN OF THE TASS REPORT). NOR DID HE HAVE ANY INSTRUCTIONS. NOTING THAT PRESS REPORTS OFTEN TURN OUT TO BE INACCURATE, HE SAID HE WOULD HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL HE HEARD FROM HIS GOVERNMENT BEFORE VENTURING TO COMMENT. HE DID VOLUNTEER TWO REMARKS THAT COULD SUGGEST A SOVIET DESIRE TO CONTINUE A RELATIONSHIP WITH THE GKR: HE NOTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN TWO KHMER MISSIONS IN MOSCOW, AND THAT THE SOVIET EMBASSY HERE HAD ALWAYS FARED ALL RIGHT, WITHOUT INCONVENIENCE AND WITHOUT DISTURBING ANYONE, CONFIDENTIAL

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THROUGH ALL OF THE KHMER TROUBLES THESE LAST FEW YEARS. HOWEVER, HE ADDED, THE SOVIETS DID HAVE SYMPATHY FOR THE "POPULAR PROGRESSIVE KHMER FORCES OUT IN THE COUNTRYSIDE".

3. LATER IN THE MORNING, DCM SAW KGUON CHHAY KRY, SECRETARY
GENERAL OF GKR FOREIGN MINISTRY, REVIEWED WIRE SERVICE
REPORTS FROM PEKING WITH HIM AND FILLED HIM IN ON THE
ABOVE-DESCRIBED CONVERSATION WITH SOVIET CHARGE. NGUON
CHHAY KRY SAID HE HAD BRIEFED THE ACTING FOREIGN MIINSTER
(CHHAN SOKHOM) ON THE SUBJECT PRIOR TO THIS MORNING'S
CABINET MEETING. HE (KRY) HAD RECOMMENDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT
NOT TAKE ANY ACTION AS YET BUT INSTEAD WAIT FOR CLARIFICATION
OF THE SOVIET MOVE. HE SAID THAT THE GKR HAD NOT HAD ANY
CONTACT WITH THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN THE MATTER.
ENDERS

CONFIDENTIAL

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